(e) whether any new projects are in pipeline for the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The details of projects being handled by the National Highway Authority of India in Rajasthan are as under:

(Length in kilometres)

Project	Total length	Completed	Under implementation	To be awarded	Target date of completion
Golden Quadrilateral	722	722	—	—	Already completed
North-South Corridor	30	20	--	10	December, 2008
East-West Corridor	526	—	484	42	December, 2008
National Highway Development Project Phase-IIIA	186	—	165	21	December, 2009

Outsourcing opportunities for scientists

2527. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of scientists working with the Ministries is falling due to craze for outsourcing opportunities amongst the science community;

(b) if so, whether Government work is adversely affected by this migration of scientists; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that scientists are being deployed on administrative work rather than utilizing their scientific skills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) It may not be correct to state that the number of scientists working with the Ministries is falling

due to craze for outsourcing opportunities amongst the science community. However, the Government is aware that some scientists are taking up research and scientific positions in private and public sector within the country and abroad because of better opportunities and research facilities available. This is unlikely to have any adverse effect on Government work.

(c) No, Sir.

International Union of Radio Science

2528. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a convention of the 'International Union of Radio Science' was recently held at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deliberations at the convention has opened the scope for predicting earthquake more accurately and sufficiently in advance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what measures are contemplated to put in place a mechanism for early and accurate detection of earthquake in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A convention of the International Union of Radio Science was held at New Delhi from October 23-29, 2005. More than 1200 participants, including foreign and Indian scientists working in the various fields of radio science, attended the convention. A number of papers on different topics, including, air ionization and thermal anomalies related to earthquake occurrence, principle component analysis of geomagnetic data, study of seismo electromagnetic events, effect of December 26, 2004 earthquake on global ionosphere Electron content and the observational findings related to December 26, 2004, were presented.

(c) The papers on electromagnetic radiations as earthquake precursors observed by a number of scientists in high, low and very low